



INTRODUCTION TO
SHAKESPEARE



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P O W E R P R E S E N T A T I O N

Biography (17 slides)

Elizabethan England (12 slides)

The Globe Theater (8 slides)

Shakespeare's Language

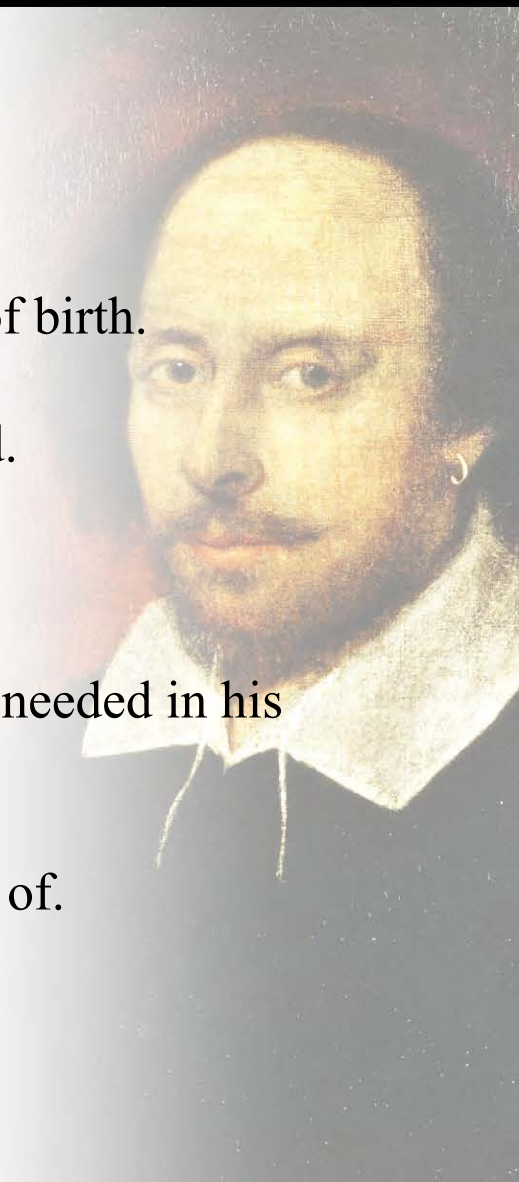
The Plays and Sonnets



Biography



- There is no record of William Shakespeare's exact date of birth.
- He was baptized on April 26, 1564, in Stratford, England.
- Scholars put his birthday three days earlier, the 23rd.
- He attended the Stratford grammar school, but was soon needed in his father's business.
- Shakespeare received no further education that we know of.





*Birth place of William Shakespeare,
Stratford upon Avon, England*

In 1582, he married Anne Hathaway—he was 19; she was 27. They had three children: Susanna, and twins Hamnet and Judith.



Only known picture of Shakespeare's wife, Anne; it is a tracing from an Elizabethan portrait made in 1708, nearly 80 years after her death.

Shakespeare entered into a period that scholars call “The Lost Years” from 1585 – 1592. Theories are that he worked for his father, became a lawyer or tutor, joined a group of traveling actors, or went to London. The truth is not known. However, by the end of 1592, Shakespeare was firmly established as an actor, and his fame as a playwright spread rapidly.

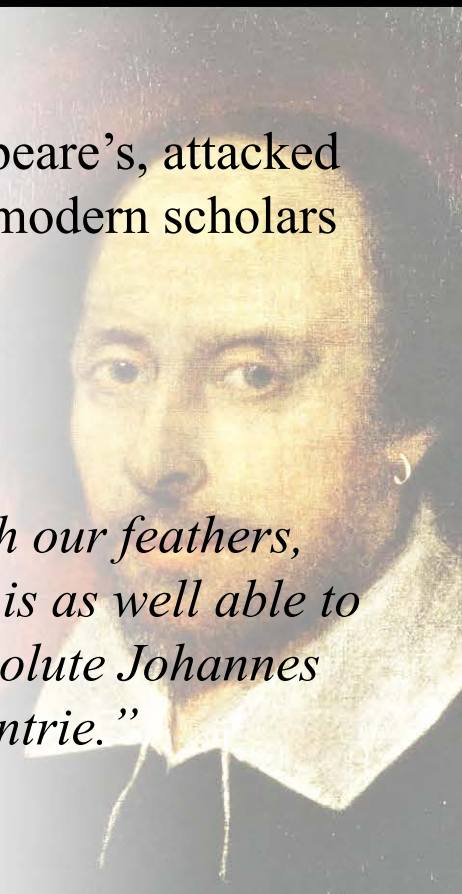


William Shakespeare

Robert Greene, an English author and contemporary of Shakespeare's, attacked him and his writing in a pamphlet, which is one of the reasons modern scholars know that Shakespeare had already become well-known:

“Yes, trust them not, for there is an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers, that, with his Tygers heart wrapt in a Players hide, supposes he is as well able to bumbast out a blanke verse as the best of you; and being an absolute Johannes Factotum, is in his owne conceit the onely Shake-scene in a countrie.”

– Robert Greene (1592)



- Shakespeare's being "*an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers*" indicates that Greene believes Shakespeare is false and deceiving.
- The plain crow has been "*beautified*" by the public's praise and "*our*" adulation.
- "*Tygers heart wrapt in a Players hide*" means that while Shakespeare might be a writer, he began as a lowly actor.

GREENES,
GROATS-VVORTH
of witte, bought with a
million of Repentance.

Describing the follie of youth, the falshood of make-
thifte flatterers, the miserie of the negligent,
and mischiefes of deceiuing
Courtizans.

Written before his death and published at his
dyeing request.

Fallicem fuisse infaustum.



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- Greene states Shakespeare could write poetry “as [well as] the best of you.”
- Anyone could write what Shakespeare wrote.
- A “*Johannes Factotum*” is literally a “Jack of all trades” and implies that while Shakespeare may do many things, he does none of them well.



An etching made of Robert Greene after his death